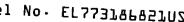
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(57) Abstract

A protein is described which is capable of binding to α_2 macro globulin. The protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 1 or a functional variant thereof. The invention also relates to a peptide comprising a fragment of the protein of at least six amino acids in length. A protein or peptide which is capable of generating a protective immune response to Group A streptococcus comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 1, a functional variant thereof or a functional variant of at least six amino acids in length of either thereof. Such a protein or peptide may be used in a vaccine composition together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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